



University of Melbourne Student Union
Meeting of the Students' Council
Agenda
11:00am, Tuesday the 15th of August 2017
Meeting 15(17)
Location: Training Room 2, Level 3, Union House

1. Procedural Matters

- 1.1 Election of Chair
- 1.2 Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners
- 1.3 Attendance
- 1.4 Apologies
- 1.5 Proxies
- 1.6 Membership

Katie Nikolaou and Louis Devine have been reappointed to Students' Council.

- 1.7 Adoption of Agenda

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Minutes for meeting 13(17)

Minutes for meeting 14(17)

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

3.1 Careers Support Review

3.2 The Mishandling of Farrago's reporting on the Respect. Now. Always. Campaign

4. Correspondence

5. Office Bearer Reports

Please see attached document: Office Bearer Reports

President	Submitted
General Secretary	Submitted
Activities	Submitted
Clubs & Societies (Kayley Cuzzubbo)	Submitted
Clubs & Societies (Gulsara Kaplun)	No report submitted (Missed 2 reports in a row)
Creative Arts	No report submitted (Missed 3 reports in a row)
Disabilities	No report submitted (Missed 1 report)
Education (Academic Affairs)	Submitted
Education (Public Affairs)	Submitted WITH RECOMMENDATIONS
Environment	Submitted WITH RECOMMENDATIONS
Indigenous	No report submitted (Missed 1 report)
Media	No report submitted (Missed 1 report)
People of Colour	Submitted
Queer (Blake Atmaja)	No report submitted (Missed 2 reports in a row)

Queer (Evelyn Lesh)	On Leave
Welfare	Submitted
Women's	No report submitted (Missed 1 report)
Burnley	Submitted
Victorian College of the Arts	Submitted

6. General Manager's Report

The General Manager did not submit a report

7. Other Reports

7.1 Student Initiative Grant Report – St. Vincent's Clinical School Mental Skills Night

7.2 NUS Edcon Grant Recipient Reports

8. Operational Business

8.1 Student Initiative Grant – Women Leading Change: A Climate Perspective

9. Motions on Notice

10. Motions Without Notice

11. Other Business

12. Next Meeting

Thursday the 31st of August 2017

13. Close

3.1 Careers Support Review

Preamble:

The lack of careers support is something that students have consistently had at Melbourne Uni. In a survey conducted by the University in April this year of 2106 current students, careers support was ranked their satisfaction with aspects of the University. On campus work opportunities (5), industry placements and internships (~5.3), volunteering and leadership programs (~6.1), mentoring and networking programs (~6.2), and graduate employment rates (~6.8) all ranked below the average (6.9). In UMSU International's annual International Student Survey 2016, 498 out of 659 participants did not think the University provided them with sufficient careers support.

However, as much as we know that students are in general dissatisfied with the current level of careers support provided, there is little data on what exactly could be improved. The University has expressed that while they are currently in discussions about this issue and have some initiatives underway, they are also lacking sufficient data to determine what students think are lacking.

There is significant scope for UMSU to contribute to and be a part of these conversations. There's a gap in data about careers support, and one which UMSU, with its close proximity to students and stake in this issue, should have an interest in filling. In doing our own research, we get to shape the conversation, and put our values and ideas at the forefront of the discussion. To this end, I'd like to conduct research into student satisfaction with current careers support provided at the University of Melbourne and best practice across the sector, with the aim of developing a report with recommendations on how the University could improve on this.

Specific areas that students have issues with, and which we would like to investigate potential solutions to, include:

- Insufficient internships support and opportunities and industry placements
- Issues for marginalised students (e.g. international students being unable to find work opportunities because of visa and residency status restrictions)
- Students getting insufficient practical skills out of their university experience (both in and outside of class settings)
- Insufficient mentoring and networking opportunities
- insufficient careers counselling
- Issues students have with the University's Careers Centre

Recommendations that come out of this research process have the potential to require quite significant changes to services currently provided, and while there is a strong interest in this information, there is more chance that our recommendations will be taken on board if the research is conducted in a methodologically sound way and of a professional quality, which UMSU office bearers do not have sufficient experience or knowledge to achieve.

Furthermore, the scope of this project is outside of the capacity of UMSU office bearers. To this end, hiring a research assistant is necessary for this project to be effective.

The research conducted will be both quantitative and qualitative in nature, and be done through: a student survey, focus groups with targeted student groups, and research into best practice across Australian universities.

The proposed timeline is as follows:

- Planning: 2 winter break (1 weeks)
- Data collection: week 1-week 6 (6 weeks)
- Data compilation/writing report: week 7-10 (5 weeks including mid-semester break)
- Presenting to the University and working out next steps: week 11-end of our term (8 weeks)

The research assistant will be employed to do the following:

- Construct the research framework, tailored to account for UMSU's needs and capacity, and provide advice on how to conduct research that is methodologically sound
- Provide advice to OBs in constructing the quantitative survey
- Run focus groups
- Provide advice in conducting research into other universities and best practice across the sector
- Assist in analysing data and writing recommendations

They would have the following qualifications: a newly qualified PhD student, ideally having majored in psychology, business/economics, or other areas that involve both qualitative and quantitative research. Someone who is familiar with student unionism is ideal.

- They would be overseen by a Project Reference Group comprised of:
- President
- General Secretary
- Welfare Officer(s)
- UMSU Intl Education and Welfare Vice President and UMSU Intl Education and Welfare Director
- Paul, UMSU Advocacy

Budget breakdown:

On advice from the UMSU HR manager, we would be looking for someone at the pay rate of a 'level A' academic. At Melbourne University, this is \$87,415 annually, or, ~\$42/hour. However, given that 1) the Melbourne Uni pay rate is higher than the national average, and 2) that we are a non for profit organisation, this could be lowered to \$35-40/hour.

The research assistant would be employed on a contractual basis for 10 hours a week x 12 weeks, for a total of 120 hours. i.e. from the planning stage to the finish of writing the report according to the timeline. This is a very rough estimate, as it is difficult how long someone should be contracted for, and there's a possibility that this is an overestimate.

Motion:

That up to \$5000 from the Campaigns budget line be approved to in order to hire a research assistant to help conduct a research project into jobs and professional support at Melbourne Uni, as outline above.

That up to \$2000 from the Campaigns budget line be to provide incentive for students to do the survey/take part in focus groups, in the form of prizes/gift cards.

Mover: Yan Zhuang

Secunder: